CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A video display system comprising a lamp which is energized to produce an image, means for receiving a power-off command, means for maintaining the lamp in an off-condition during a predetermined cool-down period following receipt of the power-off command, means for receiving a power-on command during the predetermined cool-down period, and means for automatically powering on the lamp at the end of the predetermined cool-down period if the power-on command is received during the predetermined cool-down period.

2. The video display system of claim 1 having means for signaling receipt of a power-on command during the cool-down period.

3. The video display system of claim 1 having a power light emitting diode (LED) and means for blinking the power LED for the remainder of the cool-down period upon receipt of a power-on command during the cool-down period.

4. The video display system of claim 1 wherein the means for maintaining the lamp in an off condition during the cool-down period comprises a timer.

5. The video display system of claim 1 wherein the means for maintaining the lamp in an off condition during the cool-down period comprises a counter.

6. A method of powering on a video display system having a lamp energized to produce an image comprising the steps of (a) maintaining the lamp in an off condition during a predetermined cool-down period following receipt of a power-off command and (b) automatically powering on the lamp at the end of the cool-down period if a power-on command was received during the cool-down period.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of signaling receipt of a power-on command during the cool-down period.

8. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of blinking an indicator for the remainder of the cool-down period following receipt of a power-on command during the cool-down period.

9. A program-containing computer readable medium which when executed by a processor maintains a lamp in an off condition during a cool down period and automatically powers on the lamp following the cooling down period if a power-on signal is received during the cool-down period.